



Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Attorney General Bruning to Work With the Legislature on Solution for Effective Death Penalty

**Note: Sound bites on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that he will not seek U.S. Supreme Court review of the Nebraska Supreme Court's decision finding the electric chair unconstitutional in *State v. Mata*.

"My primary goal is to ensure Nebraska has the ability to carry out the death penalty," said Bruning. "While I believe Chief Justice Heavican was correct as a matter of law in his dissent in *Mata*, at this point the resources of my office can best be used in developing a legislative solution. The U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding lethal injection as a constitutional method of execution in *Baze v. Kentucky* gave us the perfect roadmap for changing the law."

Bruning said he will work with the Governor and the Legislature to craft a constitutional method for their consideration. The Nebraska Supreme Court made clear in the *Mata* opinion that Nebraska's death penalty remains in effect, all that's required is a constitutional means of enforcement.

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